

General Assembly

Committee Bill No. 5215

January Session, 2005

LCO No. **4222** *04222HB05215JUD*

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by: (JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING COURT JURISDICTION IN JUVENILE MATTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Section 46b-120 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
- 3 The terms used in this chapter shall, in its interpretation and in the
- 4 interpretation of other statutes, be defined as follows: (1) "Child"
- 5 means any person under [sixteen] <u>eighteen</u> years of age and, for
- 6 purposes of delinquency matters, "child" means any person (A) under
- 7 [sixteen] eighteen years of age, or (B) [sixteen] eighteen years of age or
- 8 older who, prior to attaining [sixteen] eighteen years of age, has
- 9 violated any federal or state law or municipal or local ordinance, other
- than an ordinance regulating behavior of a child in a family with
- 11 service needs, and, subsequent to attaining [sixteen] eighteen years of
- 12 age, violates any order of the Superior Court or any condition of
- 13 probation ordered by the Superior Court with respect to such
- 14 delinquency proceeding; (2) "youth" means any person sixteen or
- 15 seventeen years of age; (3) "youth in crisis" means any youth who,
- 16 within the last two years, (A) has without just cause run away from the

parental home or other properly authorized and lawful place of abode, (B) is beyond the control of the youth's parents, guardian or other custodian, or (C) has four unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten unexcused absences in any school year; (4) "abused" means that a child [or youth] (A) has been inflicted with physical injury or injuries other than by accidental means, or (B) has injuries that are at variance with the history given of them, or (C) is in a condition that is the result of maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation or exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment; (5) a child may be found "mentally deficient" who, by reason of a deficiency of intelligence that has existed from birth or from early age, requires, or will require, for his protection or for the protection of others, special care, supervision and control; (6) a child may be convicted as "delinquent" who has violated (A) any federal or state law or municipal or local ordinance, other than an ordinance regulating behavior of a child in a family with service needs, (B) any order of the Superior Court, or (C) conditions of probation as ordered by the court; (7) a child [or youth] may be found "dependent" whose home is a suitable one for the child, [or youth,] save for the financial inability of the child's parents, parent [,] or guardian, or other person maintaining such home, to provide the specialized care the condition of the child [or youth] requires; (8) "family with service needs" means a family that includes a child who (A) has without just cause run away from the parental home or other properly authorized and lawful place of abode, (B) is beyond the control of the child's parent, parents, guardian or other custodian, (C) has engaged in indecent or immoral conduct, (D) is a truant or habitual truant or who, while in school, has been continuously and overtly defiant of school rules and regulations, or (E) is thirteen years of age or older and has engaged in sexual intercourse with another person and such other person is thirteen years of age or older and not more than two years older or younger than such child; (9) a child [or youth] may be found "neglected" who (A) has been abandoned, or (B) is being denied proper care and attention,

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51 physically, educationally, emotionally or morally, or (C) is being 52 permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations 53 injurious to the well-being of the child, [or youth,] or (D) has been 54 abused; (10) a child [or youth] may be found "uncared for" who is 55 homeless or whose home cannot provide the specialized care that the 56 physical, emotional or mental condition of the child requires. For the 57 purposes of this section, the treatment of any child by an accredited 58 Christian Science practitioner, in lieu of treatment by a licensed 59 practitioner of the healing arts, shall not of itself constitute neglect or 60 maltreatment; (11) "delinquent act" means the violation of any federal 61 or state law or municipal or local ordinance, other than an ordinance 62 regulating the behavior of a child in a family with service needs, or the 63 violation of any order of the Superior Court; (12) "serious juvenile 64 offense" means (A) the violation [by a child] of, including attempt or 65 conspiracy to violate, [sections] section 21a-277, 21a-278, 29-33, 29-34, 29-35, 53-21, 53-80a, 53-202b, 53-202c, 53-390 to 53-392, inclusive, 66 67 53a-54a to 53a-57, inclusive, 53a-59 to 53a-60c, inclusive, 53a-70 to 68 53a-71, inclusive, 53a-72b, 53a-86, 53a-92 to 53a-94a, inclusive, 53a-95, 69 53a-101, 53a-102a, 53a-103a [,] <u>or</u> 53a-111 to 53a-113, inclusive, 70 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-122, subdivision (3) of 71 subsection (a) of section 53a-123, section 53a-134, 53a-135, 53a-136a, 72 53a-166 [,] or 53a-167c, subsection (a) of section 53a-174, or section 73 53a-196a, 53a-211, 53a-212, 53a-216 or 53a-217b, by a child, or (B) 74 running away, without just cause, from any secure placement other 75 than home while referred as a delinquent child to the Court Support 76 Services Division or committed as a delinquent child to the 77 Commissioner of Children and Families for a serious juvenile offense; 78 (13) "serious juvenile offender" means any child convicted as 79 delinquent for commission of a serious juvenile offense; (14) "serious 80 juvenile repeat offender" means any child charged with the 81 commission of any felony if such child has previously been convicted 82 delinquent at any age for two violations of any provision of title 21a, 83 29, 53 or 53a that is designated as a felony; (15) "alcohol-dependent 84 child" means any child who has a psychoactive substance dependence

85 on alcohol as that condition is defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual 86 87 of Mental Disorders"; and (16) "drug-dependent child" means any 88 child who has a psychoactive substance dependence on drugs as that 89 condition is defined in the most recent edition of the American 90 Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental 91 Disorders". No child shall be classified as drug dependent who is 92 dependent (A) upon a morphine-type substance as an incident to 93 current medical treatment of a demonstrable physical disorder other 94 than drug dependence, or (B) upon amphetamine-type, ataractic, 95 barbiturate-type, hallucinogenic or other stimulant and depressant 96 substances as an incident to current medical treatment of a 97 demonstrable physical or psychological disorder, or both, other than 98 drug dependence.

- Sec. 2. Section 46b-121 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
- (a) Juvenile matters in the civil session include all proceedings concerning uncared-for, neglected or dependent children [and youth] within this state, termination of parental rights of children committed to a state agency, matters concerning families with service needs, contested matters involving termination of parental rights or removal of guardian transferred from the Probate Court, the emancipation of minors and youth in crisis, but does not include matters of guardianship and adoption or matters affecting property rights of any child [, youth] or youth in crisis over which the Probate Court has jurisdiction, provided appeals from probate concerning adoption, termination of parental rights and removal of a parent as guardian shall be included. Juvenile matters in the criminal session include all proceedings concerning delinquent children in the state and persons [sixteen] eighteen years of age and older who are under the supervision of a juvenile probation officer while on probation or a suspended commitment to the Department of Children and Families, for purposes of enforcing any court orders entered as part of such

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probation or suspended commitment.

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(b) In juvenile matters, the Superior Court shall have authority to make and enforce such orders directed to parents, including any person who acknowledges before [said] the court paternity of a child born out of wedlock, guardians, custodians or other adult persons owing some legal duty to a child [, youth] or youth in crisis therein, as it deems necessary or appropriate to secure the welfare, protection, proper care and suitable support of a child [, youth] or youth in crisis subject to its jurisdiction or otherwise committed to or in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families. In addition, with respect to proceedings concerning delinquent children, the Superior Court shall have authority to make and enforce such orders as it deems necessary or appropriate to punish the child, deter the child from the commission of further delinquent acts, assure that the safety of any other person will not be endangered and provide restitution to any victim. [Said] The court shall also have authority to grant and enforce injunctive relief, temporary or permanent, in all proceedings concerning juvenile matters. If any order for the payment of money is issued by [said] the court, including any order assessing costs issued under section 46b-134 or 46b-136, as amended by this act, the collection of such money shall be made by [said] the court, except orders for support of children committed to any state agency or department, which orders shall be made payable to and collected by the Department of Administrative Services. Where the court after due diligence is unable to collect such moneys within six months, it shall refer such case to the Department of Administrative Services for collection as a delinquent account. In juvenile matters, the court shall have authority to make and enforce orders directed to persons liable hereunder on petition of [said] the Department of Administrative Services made to [said] the court in the same manner as is provided in section 17b-745, in accordance with the provisions of section 17b-81 [,] or 17b-223, subsection (b) of section 17b-179, or section 17a-90, 46b-129, as amended by this act, or 46b-130, and all of the provisions of section 17b-745 shall be applicable to such proceedings. Any judge hearing a

152 juvenile matter may make any other order in connection therewith that 153 a judge of the Superior Court is authorized to grant and such order 154 shall have the same force and effect as any other order of the Superior 155 Court. In the enforcement of its orders, in connection with any juvenile 156 matter, the court may issue process for the arrest of any person, 157 compel attendance of witnesses and punish for contempt by a fine not 158 exceeding one hundred dollars or imprisonment not exceeding six 159 months.

- Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 46b-124 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
 - (b) All records of cases of juvenile matters, as provided in section 46b-121, as amended by this act, except delinquency proceedings, or any part thereof, and all records of appeals from probate brought to the superior court for juvenile matters pursuant to subsection (b) of section 45a-186, shall be confidential and for the use of the court in juvenile matters, and open to inspection or disclosure to any third party, including bona fide researchers commissioned by a state agency, only upon order of the Superior Court, except that (1) the records concerning any matter transferred from a court of probate pursuant to section 45a-623 or subsection (g) of section 45a-715 or any appeal from probate to the superior court for juvenile matters pursuant to subsection (b) of section 45a-186 shall be available to the court of probate from which such matter was transferred or from which such appeal was taken, (2) such records shall be available to (A) the attorney representing the child, [or youth,] including the Division of Public Defender Services, in any proceeding in which such records are relevant, (B) the parents or guardian of the child [or youth] until such time as the child [or youth] reaches the age of majority or becomes emancipated, (C) an adult adopted person in accordance with the provisions of sections 45a-736, 45a-737 and 45a-743 to 45a-757, inclusive, (D) employees of the Division of Criminal Justice who in the performance of their duties require access to such records, (E)

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employees of the judicial branch who in the performance of their duties require access to such records, (F) another court under the provisions of subsection (d) of section 46b-115j, (G) the subject of the record, upon submission of satisfactory proof of the subject's identity, pursuant to guidelines prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, provided the subject has reached the age of majority or has been emancipated, and (H) the Department of Children and Families. Any records of cases of juvenile matters, or any part thereof, provided to any persons, governmental and private agencies, and institutions pursuant to this section shall not be disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any third party not specified in subsection (d) of this section, except as provided by court order or in the report required under section 54-76d or 54-91a.

- Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 46b-127 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
- (c) Upon the effectuation of the transfer, such child shall stand trial and be sentenced, if convicted, as if he were [sixteen] eighteen years of age. Such child shall receive credit against any sentence imposed for time served in a juvenile facility prior to the effectuation of the transfer. A child who has been transferred may enter a guilty plea to a lesser offense if the court finds that such plea is made knowingly and voluntarily. Any child transferred to the regular criminal docket who pleads guilty to a lesser offense shall not resume his status as a juvenile regarding [said] such offense. If the action is dismissed or nolled or if such child is found not guilty of the charge for which he was transferred or of any lesser included offenses, the child shall resume his status as a juvenile until he attains the age of [sixteen] eighteen years.
- Sec. 5. Section 46b-129 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
- 216 (a) Any selectman, town manager [,] or town, city [,] or borough

welfare department, any probation officer, [or] the Commissioner of Social Services, the Commissioner of Children and Families, [or] any child-caring institution or agency approved by the Commissioner of Children and Families, a child or such child's representative or attorney or a foster parent of a child, having information that a child [or youth] is neglected, uncared-for or dependent, may file with the Superior Court which has venue over such matter a verified petition plainly stating such facts as bring the child [or youth] within the jurisdiction of the court as neglected, uncared-for [,] or dependent, within the meaning of section 46b-120, as amended by this act, the name, date of birth, sex [,] and residence of the child, [or youth,] and the name and residence of such child's parents or guardian, and praying for appropriate action by the court in conformity with the provisions of this chapter. Upon the filing of such a petition, except as otherwise provided in subsection (k) of section 17a-112, the court shall cause a summons to be issued requiring the parent or parents or the guardian of the child [or youth] to appear in court at the time and place named, which summons shall be served not less than fourteen days before the date of the hearing in the manner prescribed by section 46b-128, and [said] the court shall further give notice to the petitioner and to the Commissioner of Children and Families of the time and place when the petition is to be heard not less than fourteen days prior to the hearing in question.

(b) If it appears from the specific allegations of the petition and other verified affirmations of fact accompanying the petition and application, or subsequent thereto, that there is reasonable cause to believe that (1) the child [or youth] is suffering from serious physical illness or serious physical injury or is in immediate physical danger from the child's [or youth's] surroundings, and (2) that as a result of [said] <u>such</u> conditions, the child's [or youth's] safety is endangered and immediate removal from such surroundings is necessary to ensure the child's [or youth's] safety, the court shall either (A) issue an order to the parents or other person having responsibility for the care of the child [or youth] to appear at such time as the court may designate to

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determine whether the court should vest in some suitable agency or person the child's [or youth's] temporary care and custody pending disposition of the petition, or (B) issue an order ex parte vesting in some suitable agency or person the child's [or youth's] temporary care and custody. A preliminary hearing on any ex parte custody order or order to appear issued by the court shall be held within ten days from the issuance of such order. The service of such orders may be made by any officer authorized by law to serve process, or by any probation officer appointed in accordance with section 46b-123, investigator from the Department of Administrative Services, state or local police officer or indifferent person. Such orders shall include a conspicuous notice to the respondent written in clear and simple language containing at least the following information: (i) That the order contains allegations that conditions in the home have endangered the safety and welfare of the child; [or youth;] (ii) that a hearing will be held on the date on the form; (iii) that the hearing is the opportunity to present the parents' position concerning the alleged facts; (iv) that an attorney will be appointed for parents who cannot afford an attorney; (v) that such parents may apply for a court-appointed attorney by going in person to the court address on the form and are advised to go as soon as possible in order for the attorney to prepare for the hearing; and (vi) if such parents have any questions concerning the case or appointment of counsel, any such parent is advised to go to the court or call the clerk's office at the court as soon as possible. Upon application for appointed counsel, the court shall promptly determine eligibility and, if the respondent is eligible, promptly appoint counsel. The expense for any temporary care and custody shall be paid by the town in which such child [or youth] is at the time residing, and such town shall be reimbursed therefor by the town found liable for the child's [or youth's support, except that where a state agency has filed a petition pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the agency shall pay such expense. The agency shall give primary consideration to placing the child [or youth] in the town where such child [or youth] resides. The agency shall file in writing with the clerk of the court the

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reasons for placing the child [or youth] in a particular placement outside the town where the child [or youth] resides. Upon issuance of an ex parte order, the court shall provide to the commissioner and the parent or guardian specific steps necessary for each to take to address the ex parte order for the parent or guardian to retain or regain custody of the child. [or youth.] Upon the issuance of such order, or not later than sixty days after the issuance of such order, the court shall make a determination whether the Department of Children and Families made reasonable efforts to keep the child [or youth] with his or her parents or guardian prior to the issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the child's [or youth's] best interests, including the child's [or youth's] health and safety.

- (c) In any proceeding under this section, any grandparent of the child may make a motion to intervene and the court shall grant such motion except for good cause shown. Upon the granting of such motion, such grandparent may appear by counsel or in person.
- (d) The preliminary hearing on the order of temporary custody or order to appear or the first hearing on a petition filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be held in order for the court to: (1) Advise the parent or guardian of the allegations contained in all petitions and applications that are the subject of the hearing; (2) assure that an attorney, and where appropriate, a separate guardian ad litem, has been appointed to represent the child [or youth] in accordance with section 46b-129a and section 46b-136, as amended by this act; (3) upon request, appoint an attorney to represent the respondent when the respondent is unable to afford representation, as determined by the court; (4) advise the parent or guardian of the right to a hearing on the petitions and applications, to be held within ten days from the date of the preliminary hearing if the hearing is pursuant to an order of temporary custody or an order to show cause; (5) accept a plea regarding the truth of such allegations; (6) make any interim orders, including visitation, that the court determines are in the best interests

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of the child. [or youth.] The court, after a hearing pursuant to this subsection, shall order specific steps the commissioner and the parent or guardian shall take for the parent or guardian to regain or to retain custody of the child; [or youth;] (7) take steps to determine the identity of the father of the child, [or youth,] including ordering genetic testing, if necessary, and order service of the petition and notice of the hearing date, if any, to be made upon him; (8) if the person named as the father appears [,] and admits that he is the father, provide him and the mother with the notices which comply with section 17b-27 and provide them with the opportunity to sign a paternity acknowledgment and affirmation on forms which comply with section 17b-27. [These] Such documents shall be executed and filed in accordance with chapter 815y and a copy delivered to the clerk of the superior court for juvenile matters; and (9) in the event that the person named as a father appears and denies that he is the father of the child, [or youth,] advise him that he may have no further standing in any proceeding concerning the child, and either order genetic testing to determine paternity or direct him to execute a written denial of paternity on a form promulgated by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator. Upon execution of such a form by the putative father, the court may remove him from the case and afford him no further standing in the case or in any subsequent proceeding regarding the child [or youth] until such time as paternity is established by formal acknowledgment or adjudication in a court of competent jurisdiction.

- (e) If any parent or guardian fails, after service of such order, to appear at the preliminary hearing, the court may enter or sustain an order of temporary custody.
- (f) Upon request, or upon its own motion, the court shall schedule a hearing on the order for temporary custody or the order to show cause to be held within ten days from the date of the preliminary hearing. Such hearing shall be held on consecutive days except for compelling circumstances or at the request of the parent or guardian.

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(g) At a contested hearing on the order for temporary custody or order to appear, credible hearsay evidence regarding statements of the child [or youth] made to a mandated reporter or to a parent may be offered by the parties and admitted by the court upon a finding that the statement is reliable and trustworthy and that admission of such statement is reasonably necessary. A signed statement executed by a mandated reporter under oath may be admitted by the court without the need for the mandated reporter to appear and testify unless called by a respondent or the child, provided the statement: (1) Was provided at the preliminary hearing and promptly upon request to any counsel appearing after the preliminary hearing; (2) reasonably describes the qualifications of the reporter and the nature of his contact with the child; and (3) contains only the direct observations of the reporter, and statements made to the reporter that would be admissible if the reporter were to testify to them in court and any opinions reasonably based thereupon. If a respondent or the child gives notice at the preliminary hearing that he intends to cross-examine the reporter, the person filing the petition shall make the reporter available for such examination at the contested hearing.

(h) If any parent or guardian fails, after due notice of the hearing scheduled pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and without good cause, to appear at the scheduled date for a contested hearing on the order of temporary custody or order to appear, the court may enter or sustain an order of temporary custody.

(i) When a petition is filed in [said] the court for the commitment of a child, [or youth,] the Commissioner of Children and Families shall make a thorough investigation of the case and shall cause to be made a thorough physical and mental examination of the child [or youth] if requested by the court. The court, after hearing, may also order a thorough physical or mental examination, or both, of a parent or guardian whose competency or ability to care for a child [or youth] before the court is at issue. The expenses incurred in making such physical and mental examinations shall be paid as costs of

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(j) Upon finding and adjudging that any child [or youth] is uncaredfor, neglected or dependent, the court may commit such child [or vouth] to the Commissioner of Children and Families. Such commitment shall remain in effect until further order of the court pursuant to the provisions of subsection (k) of this section, provided such commitment may be revoked or parental rights terminated at any time by the court, or the court may vest such child's [or youth's] care and personal custody in any private or public agency which is permitted by law to care for neglected, uncared-for or dependent children [or youth] or with any person or persons found to be suitable and worthy of such responsibility by the court. The court shall order specific steps which the parent must take to facilitate the return of the child [or youth] to the custody of such parent. The commissioner shall be the guardian of such child [or youth] for the duration of the commitment, provided the child [or youth] has not reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child [or youth] in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical school, a college or a state-accredited job training program, [provided such child or youth has not reached] the age of twenty-one years, by consent of such [youth] child, or until another guardian has been legally appointed, and in like manner, upon such vesting of the care of such child, [or youth, such other public or private agency or individual shall be the guardian of such child [or youth] until such child [or youth] has reached the age of eighteen years or, in the case of a child [or youth] in full-time attendance in a secondary school, a technical school, a college or a state-accredited job training program, [until such child or youth has reached the age of twenty-one years, or until another guardian has been legally appointed. Said commissioner may place any child [or youth] so committed to the commissioner in a suitable foster home or in the home of a person related by blood to such child [or youth] or in a licensed child-caring institution or in the care and custody of any accredited, licensed or approved child-caring agency, within or without the state, provided a child shall not be placed outside the state

except for good cause and unless the parents or guardian of such child are notified in advance of such placement and given an opportunity to be heard, or in a receiving home maintained and operated by the Commissioner of Children and Families. In placing such child, [or youth, said commissioner shall, if possible, select a home, agency, institution or person of like religious faith to that of a parent of such child, [or youth,] if such faith is known or may be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, provided such home conforms to the standards of said commissioner and the commissioner shall, when placing siblings, if possible, place such children together. As an alternative to commitment, the court may place the child [or youth] in the custody of the parent or guardian with protective supervision by the Commissioner of Children and Families subject to conditions established by the court. Upon the issuance of an order committing the child [or youth] to the Commissioner of Children and Families, or not later than sixty days after the issuance of such order, the court shall make a determination whether the Department of Children and Families made reasonable efforts to keep the child [or youth] with his or her parents or guardian prior to the issuance of such order and, if such efforts were not made, whether such reasonable efforts were not possible, taking into consideration the child's [or youth's] best interests, including the child's [or youth's] health and safety.

(k) (1) Nine months after placement of the child [or youth] in the care and custody of the commissioner pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement, or removal of a child [or youth] pursuant to section 17a-101g or an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, whichever is earlier, the commissioner shall file a motion for review of a permanency plan and to maintain or revoke the commitment. Nine months after a permanency plan has been approved by the court pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall file a motion for review of the permanency plan and to maintain or revoke the commitment. Any party seeking to oppose the commissioner's permanency plan or the maintaining or revocation of commitment shall file a motion in opposition within thirty days after

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the filing of the commissioner's motion for review of the permanency plan and to maintain or revoke commitment. A permanency hearing on any motion for review of the permanency plan and to maintain or revoke commitment shall be held within ninety days of the filing of such motion. The court shall hold evidentiary hearings in connection with any contested motion for review of the permanency plan and to maintain or revoke commitment. The burden of proof shall be upon the commissioner to establish that the commitment should be maintained. After the initial permanency hearing, subsequent permanency hearings shall be held not less frequently than every twelve months while the child [or youth] remains in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families. The court shall provide notice to the child [or youth,] and the parent or guardian of such child [or youth] of the time and place of the court hearing on any such motion not less than fourteen days prior to such hearing.

(2) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall determine whether it is appropriate to continue to make reasonable efforts to reunify the child [or youth] with the parent, unless the court has previously determined that such efforts are not appropriate pursuant to this subdivision or section 17a-111b. In making [this] such determination, the court shall consider the best interests of the child, including the child's need for permanency. If the court finds upon clear and convincing evidence that further efforts are not appropriate, the commissioner has no duty to make further efforts to reunify the child [or youth] with the parent. If the court finds that further efforts are appropriate, such efforts shall ensure that the [child or youth's] child's health and safety are protected and such efforts shall be specified by the court, including the services to be provided to the parent, what steps the parent may take to address the problem that prevents the child [or youth] from safely reuniting with the parent and a time period, not longer than six months, for such steps to be accomplished.

(3) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions

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of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall approve a permanency plan that is in the best interests of the child [or youth] and takes into consideration the child's [or youth's] need for permanency. The child's [or youth's] health and safety shall be of paramount concern in formulating such plan. Such permanency plan may include the goal of (A) revocation of commitment and placement of the child [or youth] with the parent or guardian, with or without protective supervision; (B) transfer of guardianship; (C) long-term foster care with a relative licensed as a foster parent or certified as a relative caregiver; (D) adoption and filing of termination of parental rights; or (E) such other planned permanent living arrangement ordered by the court, provided the Commissioner of Children and Families has documented a compelling reason why it would not be in the best interest of the child [or youth] for the permanency plan to include the goals in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision. Such other planned permanent living arrangement may include, but not be limited to, placement of a child [or youth] in an independent living program or long term foster care with an identified foster parent.

(4) At a permanency hearing held in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall review the status of the child, the progress being made to implement the permanency plan, determine a timetable for attaining the permanency plan and determine whether the commissioner has made reasonable efforts to achieve the permanency plan. The court shall maintain commitment if it is in the best interests of the child. [or youth.] The court shall revoke commitment if a cause for commitment no longer exists and it is in the best interests of the child. [or youth.]

(5) If the court approves the permanency plan of adoption: (A) The Commissioner of Children and Families may conduct a thorough adoption assessment and child-specific recruitment; and (B) the court may order that the child be photo-listed within thirty days if the court determines that such photo-listing is in the best interest of the child. As used in this subdivision, "thorough adoption assessment" means

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conducting and documenting face-to-face interviews with the child, foster care providers [,] and other significant parties, and "child specific recruitment" means recruiting an adoptive placement targeted to meet the individual needs of the specific child, including, but not limited to, use of the media, use of photo-listing services and any other in-state or out-of-state resources that may be used to meet the specific needs of the child, unless there are extenuating circumstances that indicate that [these] such efforts are not in the best interest of the child.

(l) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall pay directly to the person or persons furnishing goods or services determined by said commissioner to be necessary for the care and maintenance of such child [or youth] the reasonable expense thereof, payment to be made at intervals determined by said commissioner; and the Comptroller shall draw his order on the Treasurer, from time to time, for such part of the appropriation for care of committed children [or youth] as may be needed in order to enable the commissioner to make such payments. Said commissioner shall include in his annual budget a sum estimated to be sufficient to carry out the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding that any such child [or youth] has income or estate, the commissioner may pay the cost of care and maintenance of such child. [or youth.] The commissioner may bill to and collect from the person in charge of the estate of any child [or youth] aided under this chapter, including his decedent estate, or the payee of such child's [or youth's] income, the total amount expended for care of such child [or youth] or such portion thereof as any such estate or payee is able to reimburse.

(m) The commissioner, a parent or the child's attorney may file a motion to revoke a commitment, and, upon finding that cause for commitment no longer exists, and that such revocation is in the best interest and welfare of such child, [or youth,] the court may revoke the commitment of any child. [or youth.] No such motion shall be filed more often than once every six months.

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- (n) Upon service on the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child [or youth] of any order issued by the court pursuant to the provisions of subsections (b) and (j) of this section, the child [or youth] concerned shall be surrendered to the person serving the order who shall forthwith deliver the child [or youth] to the person, agency, department or institution awarded custody in such order. Upon refusal of the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child [or youth] to surrender the child [or youth] as provided in the order, the court may cause a warrant to be issued charging the parent, guardian or other person having control of the child [or youth] with contempt of court. If the person arrested is found in contempt of court, the court may order such person confined until he purges himself of contempt, but for not more than six months, or may fine such person not more than five hundred dollars, or both.
- (o) A foster parent shall have the right to be heard for the purposes of this section in Superior Court in matters concerning the placement or revocation of commitment of a foster child living with such parent. A foster parent shall receive notice of any motion to revoke commitment or any hearing on such motion. A foster parent who has cared for a child [or youth] for not less than six months shall have the right to be heard and comment on the best interests of such child [or youth] in any matter under this section which is brought not more than one year after the last day the foster parent provided such care.
- (p) Upon motion of any sibling of any child committed to the Department of Children and Families pursuant to this section, such sibling shall have the right to be heard concerning visitation with, and placement of, any such child. In awarding any visitation or modifying any placement, the court shall be guided by the best interests of all siblings affected by such determination.
- (q) The provisions of section 17a-152, regarding placement of a child from another state, and section 17a-175, regarding the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, shall apply to placements

pursuant to this section.

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- Sec. 6. Subsection (f) of section 46b-133c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
 - (f) Whenever a proceeding has been designated a serious juvenile repeat offender prosecution pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and the child does not waive his right to a trial by jury, the court shall transfer the case from the docket for juvenile matters to the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court. Upon transfer, such child shall stand trial and be sentenced, if convicted, as if he were [sixteen] eighteen years of age, except that no such child shall be placed in a correctional facility but shall be maintained in a facility for children [and youth] until he attains [sixteen] eighteen years of age or until he is sentenced, whichever occurs first. Such child shall receive credit against any sentence imposed for time served in a juvenile facility prior to the effectuation of the transfer. A child who has been transferred may enter a guilty plea to a lesser offense if the court finds that such plea is made knowingly and voluntarily. Any child transferred to the regular criminal docket who pleads guilty to a lesser offense shall not resume his status as a juvenile regarding [said] such offense. If the action is dismissed or nolled or if such child is found not guilty of the charge for which he was transferred, the child shall resume his status as a juvenile until he attains [sixteen] eighteen years of age.
- Sec. 7. Subsection (f) of section 46b-133d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective* October 1, 2005):
 - (f) When a proceeding has been designated a serious sexual offender prosecution pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and the child does not waive the right to a trial by jury, the court shall transfer the case from the docket for juvenile matters to the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court. Upon transfer, such child shall stand trial

613 and be sentenced, if convicted, as if such child were [sixteen] eighteen 614 years of age, except that no such child shall be placed in a correctional 615 facility but shall be maintained in a facility for children [and youth] 616 until such child attains [sixteen] eighteen years of age or until such 617 child is sentenced, whichever occurs first. Such child shall receive 618 credit against any sentence imposed for time served in a juvenile 619 facility prior to the effectuation of the transfer. A child who has been 620 transferred may enter a guilty plea to a lesser offense if the court finds 621 that such plea is made knowingly and voluntarily. Any child 622 transferred to the regular criminal docket who pleads guilty to a lesser 623 offense shall not resume such child's status as a juvenile regarding 624 such offense. If the action is dismissed or nolled or if such child is 625 found not guilty of the charge for which such child was transferred, 626 the child shall resume such child's status as a juvenile until such child 627 attains [sixteen] eighteen years of age.

- Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 46b-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
 - (b) At the commencement of any proceeding on behalf of a neglected, uncared-for or dependent child, [or youth,] the parent or parents or guardian of the child [or youth] shall have the right to counsel, and shall be so informed by the judge, and that if they are unable to afford counsel, counsel will be provided for them, and such counsel and such parent or guardian of the child [or youth] shall have the rights of confrontation and cross-examination.
- Sec. 9. Section 46b-136 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
 - In any proceeding on a juvenile matter, the judge before whom such proceeding is pending shall, even in the absence of a request to do so, provide an attorney to represent the child, [or youth,] his parent or parents, guardian or other person having control of the child, [or youth,] if such judge determines that the interests of justice so require,

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and in any proceeding in which the custody of a child is at issue, such judge shall provide an attorney to represent the child and may authorize such attorney or appoint another attorney to represent such child, [or youth,] parent, guardian or other person on an appeal from a decision in such proceeding. Where, under the provisions of this section, the court so appoints counsel for any such party who is found able to pay, in whole or in part, the cost thereof, it shall assess as costs against such parents, guardian [,] or custodian, including any agency vested with the legal custody of the child, [or youth,] the expense so incurred and paid for by the court in providing such counsel, to the extent of their financial ability to do so.

- Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 46b-137 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
- (b) Any confession, admission or statement, written or oral, made by the parent or parents or guardian of the child [or youth] after the filing of a petition alleging such child [or youth] to be neglected, uncared-for or dependent, shall be inadmissible in any proceeding held upon such petition against the person making such admission or statement unless such person shall have been advised of his right to retain counsel, and that if he is unable to afford counsel, counsel will be appointed to represent him, that he has a right to refuse to make any statement and that any statements he makes may be introduced in evidence against him.
- Sec. 11. Section 46b-138 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
- For the purpose of hearing any juvenile matter, the court may summon witnesses and compel their attendance. The conversations of the judge with a child [or youth] whose case is before the court shall be privileged.
- Sec. 12. Subsection (g) of section 46b-140 of the general statutes is

repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

- (g) Any child [or youth] coming within the jurisdiction of the court, who is found to be mentally ill, may be committed by [said] the court to the Commissioner of Children and Families and, if the court convicts a child as delinquent and finds such child to be mentally deficient, it may commit such child to an institution for mentally deficient children [or youth] or delinquents. Whenever it is found that a child convicted by the court as delinquent or adjudged by the court to be a member of a family with service needs who is fourteen years of age or older would not benefit from continued school attendance, the court may order such child to be placed on vocational probation if [such] the court finds that such child may properly be employed [for part] part-time or full-time at some useful occupation and that such employment would be favorable to such child's welfare, and the probation officer shall supervise such employment. For the purposes of this section, the limitations of subsection (a) of section 31-23 on the employment of minors under the age of sixteen years shall not apply for the duration of such vocational probation.
- Sec. 13. Section 46b-140a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
 - (a) At any time during the period of probation or suspended commitment, after hearing and for good cause shown, the court may modify or enlarge the conditions, whether originally imposed by the court under this section or otherwise, and may extend the period as deemed appropriate by the court. The court shall cause a copy of any such order to be delivered to the child [or youth] and to such [child or youth's] child's parent or guardian and probation officer.
 - (b) The period of participation in an alternative incarceration program, as a condition of probation or suspended commitment, unless terminated sooner, shall not exceed the original period of probation or suspended commitment.

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- (c) At any time during the period of probation or suspended commitment, the court may issue a warrant for the arrest of a child [or youth] for violation of any of the conditions of probation or suspended commitment, or may issue a notice to appear to answer to a charge of such violation, which notice shall be personally served upon the child. [or youth.] Any such warrant shall authorize all officers named therein to return the child [or youth] to the custody of the court or to any suitable juvenile detention facility designated by the court.
- (d) If such violation is established, the court may continue or revoke the order of probation or suspended commitment or modify or enlarge the conditions and, if such order of probation or suspended commitment is revoked, require the child [or youth] to serve the commitment imposed or impose any lesser commitment. No such revocation shall be ordered, except upon consideration of the whole record and unless such violation is established by reliable and probative evidence.
- (e) Upon a determination by the court that a child [or youth] has violated probation by failing to comply with the requirements of electronic monitoring, the Court Support Services Division shall notify the local law enforcement agency of such violation.
- Sec. 14. Section 46b-142 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
 - (a) The Chief Court Administrator, in consultation with the judges of the Superior Court, shall establish districts for the purpose of establishing venue in juvenile matters. All petitions concerning delinquent children shall be heard within the district where the delinquency is alleged to have occurred or where the child resides, in the discretion of the court. All other petitions shall be heard within the district where the child [or youth] resided at the time of the filing of the petition, [but] <u>provided</u>, for the purposes of this section any child [or youth] born in any hospital or institution where the mother is confined at the time of birth shall be deemed to have residence in the

district wherein such child's [or youth's] mother was living at the time of her admission to such hospital or institution.

- (b) The Department of Children and Families, or any party at interest aggrieved by any final judgment or order of the court, may appeal to the Appellate Court in accordance with the provisions of section 52-263. The clerk in charge of such juvenile matters shall forthwith, after notice of any appeal, prepare and file with the clerk of the Appellate Court the certified copy of the record of the case from which such appeal has been taken. The name of the child [or youth] involved in any such appeal shall not appear on the record of the appeal, and the records and papers of any juvenile case filed in the Appellate Court shall be open for inspection only to persons having a proper interest therein and upon order of the court.
- (c) Pending such appeal, the Superior Court may cause the child [or youth] to be detained in some suitable place as the court may direct, or may release the child [or youth] in the care of a parent, probation officer or other suitable person, and may require the appellant to enter into a bond or recognizance to the state, with surety or security conditioned that the child [or youth] shall appear before the Appellate Court and abide by the order and judgment.
- (d) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section, the Department of Children and Families, or any party to the action aggrieved by a final judgment in a termination of parental rights proceeding, shall be entitled to an expedited hearing before the Appellate Court. A final decision of the Appellate Court shall be issued as soon as practicable after the date on which the certified copy of the record of the case is filed with the clerk of the Appellate Court.
- Sec. 15. Section 46b-143 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):
 - The clerk in charge of juvenile matters shall note the time of filing an appeal from a juvenile matter and forthwith forward to the clerk of

the Appellate Court a certified copy of the appeal and order made thereon. He shall also send a copy by registered or certified mail to the Commissioner of Social Services or to the Commissioner of Children and Families, to the petitioner upon whose application the proceedings in the Superior Court were instituted, unless he is the appellant, to any person or agency having custody of any child [or youth] who is a subject of the proceeding, and to all other interested persons as designated in the appeal; and if the addresses of any such persons do not appear in the appeal, he shall call the matter to the attention of a judge of the Superior Court who shall make such an order of notice as he deems advisable.

Sec. 16. Section 46b-144 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

In committing a child [or youth] to a custodial agency, other than such child's [or youth's] natural guardians, the court shall, as far as practicable, select as such agency some person of like faith to that of the parent or parents of the child [or youth] or some agency or institution governed by persons of such faith, unless such agency or institution is a state or municipal agency or institution. In the order of committal, the court shall designate some indifferent person to serve the commitment process, and such indifferent person may be accompanied by any suitable relative or friend of such child. [or youth.] If the person designated to serve such commitment process is an officer, such officer shall not serve such commitment process while dressed in the uniform of any police officer, and no such officer shall, while serving any such commitment process, wear plainly displayed any police officer's badge.

Sec. 17. Section 46b-146 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

Whenever any child has been found delinquent or a member of a family with service needs, and has subsequently been discharged from the supervision of the Superior Court or from the custody of the

Department of Children and Families or from the care of any other institution or agency to whom he has been committed by the court, such child, or his parent or guardian, may file a petition with the Superior Court and, if [such] the court finds that at least two years or, in the case of a child convicted as delinquent for the commission of a serious juvenile offense, four years have elapsed from the date of such discharge, that no subsequent juvenile proceeding has been instituted against such child, that such child has not been found guilty of a crime and that such child has reached [sixteen] eighteen years of age within such period, it shall order all police and court records pertaining to such child to be erased. Upon the entry of such an erasure order, all references, including arrest, complaint, referrals, petitions, reports and orders, shall be removed from all agency, official and institutional files, and a finding of delinquency or that the child was a member of a family with service needs shall be deemed never to have occurred. The persons in charge of such records shall not disclose to any person information pertaining to the record so erased, except that the fact of such erasure may be substantiated where, in the opinion of the court, it is in the best interests of such child to do so. No child who has been the subject of such an erasure order shall be deemed to have been arrested ab initio, within the meaning of the general statutes, with respect to proceedings so erased. Copies of the erasure order shall be sent to all persons, agencies, officials or institutions known to have information pertaining to the delinquency or family with service needs proceedings affecting such child. Whenever a child is dismissed as not delinquent or as not being a member of a family with service needs, all police and court records pertaining to such charge shall be ordered erased immediately, without the filing of a petition.

Sec. 18. Section 46b-150d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

An order that a minor is emancipated shall have the following effects: [(a)] (1) The minor may consent to medical, dental or psychiatric care [,] without parental consent, knowledge or liability;

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[(b)] (2) the minor may enter into a binding contract; [(c)] (3) the minor may sue and be sued in his own name; [(d)] (4) the minor shall be entitled to his own earnings and shall be free of control by his parents or guardian; [(e)] (5) the minor may establish his own residence; [(f)] (6) the minor may buy and sell real and personal property; [(g)] (7) the minor may not thereafter be the subject of a petition under section 46b-129, as amended by this act, as an abused, dependent, neglected or uncared for child; [or youth; (h)] (8) the minor may enroll in any school or college [,] without parental consent; [(i)] (9) the minor shall be deemed to be over eighteen years of age for purposes of securing an operator's license under section 14-36 and a marriage license under subsection (b) of section 46b-30 without parental consent; [(j)] (10) the minor shall be deemed to be over eighteen years of age for purposes of registering a motor vehicle under section 14-12; [(k)] (11) the parents of the minor shall no longer be the guardians of the minor under section 45a-606; [(1)] (12) the parents of a minor shall be relieved of any obligations respecting his school attendance under section 10-184; [(m)] (13) the parents shall be relieved of all obligation to support the minor; [(n)] (14) the minor shall be emancipated for the purposes of parental liability for his acts under section 52-572; [(o)] (15) the minor may execute releases in his own name under section 14-118; and [(p)] (16) the minor may enlist in the armed forces of the United States without parental consent.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following			
sections:			
Section 1	October 1, 2005	46b-120	
Sec. 2	October 1, 2005	46b-121	
Sec. 3	October 1, 2005	46b-124(b)	
Sec. 4	October 1, 2005	46b-127(c)	
Sec. 5	October 1, 2005	46b-129	
Sec. 6	October 1, 2005	46b-133c(f)	
Sec. 7	October 1, 2005	46b-133d(f)	
Sec. 8	October 1, 2005	46b-135(b)	
Sec. 9	October 1, 2005	46b-136	

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Sec. 10	October 1, 2005	46b-137(b)
Sec. 11	October 1, 2005	46b-138
Sec. 12	October 1, 2005	46b-140(g)
Sec. 13	October 1, 2005	46b-140a
Sec. 14	October 1, 2005	46b-142
Sec. 15	October 1, 2005	46b-143
Sec. 16	October 1, 2005	46b-144
Sec. 17	October 1, 2005	46b-146
Sec. 18	October 1, 2005	46b-150d

Statement of Purpose:

To extend jurisdiction in juvenile matters to include sixteen and seventeen-year-old offenders.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.; REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5th Dist.

REP. SCRIBNER, 107th Dist.; REP. CANDELARIA, 95th Dist. REP. THOMPSON, 13th Dist.; REP. MANTILLA, 4th Dist.

H.B. 5215